

Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
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O 131435Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9509

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6776

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJ: TENNECO SIX

REF: (A) STATE 125559; (B) KHARTOUM 1377

1. RE PARA 1 REFTTEL (A), WE FULLY CONCUR THAT ZEIN CHANNEL IN KHARTOUM AND MISSIONARY EFFORTS IN ASMARA SHOULD CONTINUE BE PURSUED. AS FOR POSSIBLE USE MORGHANI, OUR TEL 6733 DESCRIBES MOST RECENT OUTCOME OF THIS EFFORT AND TENNECO'S REFUSAL PAY \$100,000 IN ADVANCE FOR ANY EFFORT ON HIS PART. WE ARE NOT INCLINED URGE ANYONE PAY CHARACTER SUCH AS MORGHANI \$100,000 MERELY IN HOPE HE CAN PRODUCE SOMETHING.

2. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL (A), WE BELIEVE EMBASSY KHARTOUM AND GOS CAN PRESENTLY MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ZEIN BUT THAT GRAHAM SHOULD RETURN TO KHARTOUM IF CHANNEL BECOMES MORE ACTIVE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM BOGAN THAT THIS WILL BE NO PROBLEM. EMBASSY KHARTOUM HAS SUGGESTED IN REFTTEL (B) THAT IT WILL HELP ZEIN IF WE CAN PASS TO HIM PRIVATE IEG ASSURANCES THAT FIVE JAILED ELF TYPES DESIGNATED BY ZEIN WILL BE RELEASED WHEN TWO TENNECO HOSTAGES SET FREE.

3. MISSIONARIES ARE PRESENTLY IN TOUCH WITH PERRY IN ASMARA
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AND WE SEE NO NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS IN THAT REGARD. WE

CANNOT REALY COMMENT ON BEST METHOD OF SUPPORTING MORGHANI CHANNEL, IF OPENED, WITHOUT KNOWING CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THIS CHANNEL WOULD BE DEVELOPED.

4. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL (A), WE SEE TWO QUITE FEASIBLE METHODS FOR ATTEMPTING ESTABLISH NEW CHANNEL TO ELF, SPECIFICALLY ITS "EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE". ONE APPROACH WOULD BE FOR TENNECO TO RESPOND TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S LETTER OF JUNE 9 QUOTED IN ASMARA 460. WE HAVE ASKED BOGAN TO DISCUSS WITH WILSON LATER TODAY POSSIBILITY OF TAKING THIS APPROACH. BOGAN BELIEVES CANWEST PILOT WILLIAMS IN ASMARA COULD SEND MESSENGER WHO COULD REACH ELF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. MESSAGE WOULD STRESS TENNECO WILLINGNESS NEGOTIATE WITH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BUT DESCRIBE REASONS FOR ITS TOTAL LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN MORGHANI. ALTERNATIVE APPROACH WOULD BE FOR IEG RESPOND TO LETTER SENT GOVGEN BY ELF ON JUNE 9 AND QUOTED IN ASMARA 465. THIS APPEALS SOMEWHAT LESS TO US AT PRESENT BECAUSE IT WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR TENNECO AND USG TO CONTINUOUSLY MONITOR STATE OF PLAY.

5. RE SECOND PART OF PARA 4 REFTTEL (A), EMBASSY SUSPECTS THAT MISSIONARIES' REPRESENTATIVE CITED IN ASMARA 455 MAY BE ORIGINAL SOURCE FOR UPI STORY THAT TENNECO EMPLOYEES WILL BE CHARGED WITH "EXPLOITATION". WE WILL MENTION STORY TO IEG AT FIRST APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO SEE IF IT CAN CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING HELPFUL ON THIS SUBJECT. WYMAN

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